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PATENT
PDNO 10018003-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jian Fan

Serial No. 10/044,558
Filed: January 11, 2002

: Confirmation No. 9516
:
:
: Group Art Unit: 2623
: Examiner Brian Q. Le
:

For: TEXT EXTRACTION AND ITS APPLICATION TO COMPOUND DOCUMENT
IMAGE COMPRESSION

Mail stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified
application. No amendments are being filed.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reasons stated in the attached sheets.

Respectfully submitted,

Fax No. 1-571-273-8300
Pages: 4

/Hugh Gortler #33,890/
Hugh P. Gortler
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I hereby certify that this correspondence
is being facsimile transmitted to the
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Date: May 23, 2006

S.N. 09/924,926

ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17, 20 and 22-28 are pending in this application.

Claims 7-9, 11-14, 20 and 22 are objected to.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15-19, 21 and 23-25 are rejected.

Claims 26-28 has not been examined.

The final office action dated February 24, 2006 indicates that claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15-19, 21 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 USC §§102 and 103 as being unpatentable over Lee et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,160,913 alone or in view of others. Claims 1 and 23 are base claims. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Lee discloses a method of removing halftone dots in a halftone image (col. 1, lines 7-10). The method includes converting a grayscale image into a binary thresholded image with halftone dots; identifying halftone regions within the image; and removing halftone dots within the identified regions (see Abstract).

Lee does not teach or suggest all of the features in base claims 1 and 23.

Lee does not teach or suggest text-like pixel identification that includes classifying line segments of pixels within an image by edge-bounded averaging, the edge-bounded averaging including finding an average value of connected pixels within a mask centered at location (i,j). Therefore, Lee does not teach or suggest all of the features recited in base claim 1 and base claim 23.

Lee does not mention text-like pixel identification or classification. Lee does not teach or suggest that his method could be used for text-like pixel identification or classification. Therefore, the '102 and '103 rejections of claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15-19, 21 and 23-25 should be withdrawn

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Lee does not teach or suggest all of the features in base claim 26.

Base claim 26 and its dependent claims 27-28 were added in the response dated December 14, 2004. Although claims 26-28 have not been examined, PAIRS indicates that these new claims were made of record.

Base claim 26 recites an image processing method that includes finding average values of connected pixels of the same type in a neighborhood of the segment; and using the average values to classify the segment as text or non-text. Lee does not teach or suggest the use of such average values to classify a segment as text or non-text. Lee does not even mention text classification. Therefore, claim 26 should be allowed over Lee.

Lee is non-analogous art

MPEP 2141.01(a) states a reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned.

Base claim 1 recites a method to identify text-like pixels from an image. Base claim 23 recites a system for identifying text-like pixels from an image. Base claim 26 recites a method of processing a digital image, including classifying a segment as text or non-text. The inventor is concerned with problems described in paragraphs 4-6 of the application, which includes extracting text against backgrounds that are non-uniform or slow-varying.

Lee's field of endeavor involves the detection and removal of halftone dots in a halftone image (col. 1, lines 7-10). The dots are removed to improve image compressibility (col. 1, lines 56-62). Lee is concerned with the problem of distinguishing halftone dots from objects in an image, "regardless of what the objects contain" (col. 2, lines 26-31).

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Therefore, Lee is non-analogous art. For this additional reason, the '102 and '103 rejections of claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15-19, 21 and 23-25 should be withdrawn, and claim 26 should be allowed over Lee.

Respectfully submitted,

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